



tournaments, and disclosing that a central controller automatically creates player groups that are based on predefined, player-entered information. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Walker '782, Walker '272, and Walker '549 to achieve the invention recited in claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-20.

Applicant submits that Walker '782 discloses a group of players forming a team which is registered with a particular casino. Walker '782 discloses that "to be eligible to receive a reward or bonus a team member must have wagered a minimum amount of money during a given time period." "If a player fails to meet an eligibility requirement set forth in a team plan. [sic] then that player would not share in a team reward or bonus." Walker '782 also discloses that a bonus "may be distributed to the player when a payout is obtained by or is due to another game-playing team member." (Walker, column 6, lines 41-66.) In contrast, the present application discloses the creation of a virtual group for purchasing lottery tickets for a group of people. (Specification, generally, at page 6, lines 18-20.)

Amended claim 1 recites a system for permitting purchasers to purchase lottery tickets over the Internet including a virtual group formed by at least one server "wherein the at least one server causes the lottery tickets to be purchased for the virtual group of purchasers according to the group information and the lottery information." Amended claim 8 recites a method for allowing purchasers to purchase lottery tickets over the Internet including the step of "causing the server to electronically purchase the lottery tickets for the virtual group of purchasers according to the group information and the lottery information." Walker '782 does not disclose the purchase of a lottery ticket for a group of players as recited in amended claims 1 and 8. Rather Walker '782 discloses

individual players placing individual wagers in a casino, where if the player is a member of a group registered with the casino and if the player has wagered a minimum amount within a given time period, the player can share in a team reward when a payout is obtained on a wager placed by another game-playing player that is a member of the group. As the Examiner acknowledges, there is no disclosure in Walker '782 regarding a server that purchases lottery tickets or that a server "communicates results of the purchase of lottery tickets to the purchasers" as recited in amended claim 1, and similarly recited in amended claim 8. At best, the system disclosed in Walker '782 merely communicates whether a person who is a member of a registered casino group has won on a machine at the casino, and what prize other members of the group will receive.

Walker '272 discloses a conditional lottery ticket system that processes conditional lottery ticket transactions, including the acceptance and validation of play entries. According to this reference, the conditional lottery ticket system preferably includes a central lottery server and one or more remote lottery terminals. The conditional lottery ticket system permits a player to purchase conditional lottery tickets that are not activated until one or more player-defined activation conditions are satisfied. (Walker '272, column 2, lines 25-34.) Accordingly, Applicant submits that this reference discloses the purchase of a single conditional lottery ticket by an individual player at a lottery terminal. However, this reference is not related to group play of any type, and the Examiner has acknowledged this lack of relevant disclosure in the detailed Office Action: "Walker '272 does not however teach the limitation of a central server automatically creating groups of participants based on predefined information." (Detailed Office Action, page 3.) The Walker '272 patent merely discloses a lottery system that may use the Internet. (Walker '272, column 4, lines 44-51.)









If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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